

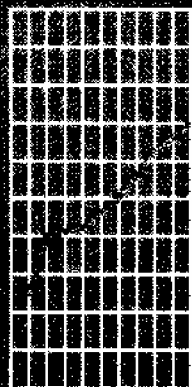


December 1996

EMBARGO: 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) MON 23 DEC 1996

# Business Indicators

## Australian Capital Territory



## NOTES

### FORTHCOMING ISSUES

| <i>ISSUE</i>  | <i>RELEASE DATE</i> |
|---------------|---------------------|
| January 1997  | 27 January 1997     |
| February 1997 | 24 February 1997    |

### SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

ACT Australian Capital Territory  
n.a. not available  
n.p. not available for publication  
p preliminary  
— nil or rounded to zero

### INQUIRIES

For further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Kingsley Green on Canberra (06) 207 0286 or any ABS State office.

For information about other ABS statistics and services, please contact Information Services on Canberra (06) 252 6627, or 252 6007 or any ABS State office.

Dalma Jacobs  
Regional Director  
Australian Capital Territory

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### UPDATED SERIES

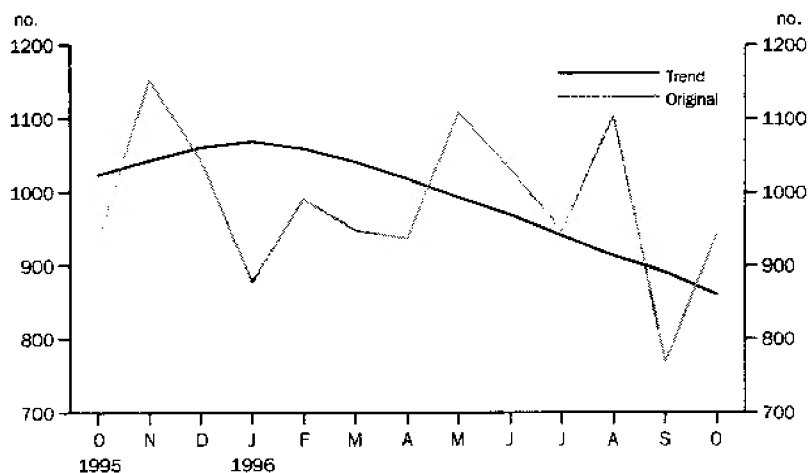
Series updated since the November 1996 issue are: labour force, building approvals; housing finance; established house price indexes; retail turnover; new motor vehicle registrations and tourist accommodation. A feature article on Home Ownership in the ACT is included on page 6.

### NOTABLE MOVEMENTS

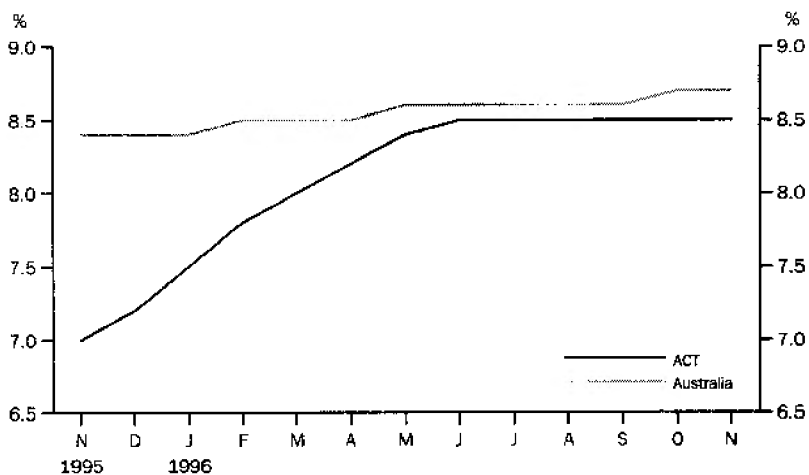
|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Labour force                   | The trend number of persons employed in the ACT has fallen for each of the last 13 months from a peak of 159,700 persons in October 1995 to 152,600 persons in November 1996. Over the same period, the trend unemployment rate increased from 7.0% to 8.5% and the trend participation rate decreased from 74.3% to 71.3%. The trend unemployment rate has stabilised at 8.5% for the last six months.  |
| Industrial disputes            | In August 1996, there were 142 working days lost per 1,000 employees in the ACT compared with 139 working days lost per 1,000 employees nationally. For the ACT, this was the highest rate of working days lost per 1,000 employees since the 145 reported for the year ended June 1988.   |
| Housing and construction       | <p>The trend number of dwelling units approved in the ACT decreased by 4.6% to 124 dwelling units in October 1996. This compares to 229 dwelling units approved in October 1995. Nationally, the total number of dwelling units approved increased by 0.8% in October 1996.</p> <p>The trend number of dwelling units financed (includes refinancing) in the ACT during October 1996 increased to 870 dwellings (0.9%). Refinancing of existing dwellings comprised 24% of the total number of dwelling units financed in October 1996, which was down from 34% the previous month. The trend estimate for the value of commitments in the ACT in October 1996 was \$85.2m, an increase of 0.6% on the previous month.</p> |
| Prices                         | The ACT had no change for the all groups CPI between the quarters June 1996 and September 1996. The ACT annual increase to September 1996 was 1.9% which compares to the weighted average of the eight capital cities of 2.1%.   |
| Retail turnover                | The trend estimate for retail turnover in the ACT for October 1996 was \$194.6 million, down on the previous month's figure of \$195.0m. National and ACT trend retail turnover have both decreased by 0.2% since the previous month.  |
| Motor vehicle registrations    | The trend estimate for new motor vehicle registrations for the ACT in October 1996 was 860. The series has declined for each of the months since January 1996 which recorded 1,069 new vehicles registered. Nationally, the trend for total new registrations in October 1996 recorded its fifth consecutive monthly fall.   |
| Tourism — room occupancy rates | Room occupancy rates for hotels, motels and guest houses in the September quarter 1996 was 57.5%, down 6.0 percentage points on the June quarter 1996 and down 5.2 percentage points on the September quarter 1995. For 4 and 5 star hotels, motels and guest houses, the room occupancy rate fell to 65.2% in the September quarter 1996 compared with 74.8% in the September quarter 1995.   |
| Average weekly earnings        | Trend estimates of average weekly earnings for the ACT continued the steady upward movement of the past two years. The average weekly earnings for August 1996 was \$648.30, an increase of 1.0% from the previous quarter. Nationally average weekly earnings increased by 0.8% to \$569.20.  |

## SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

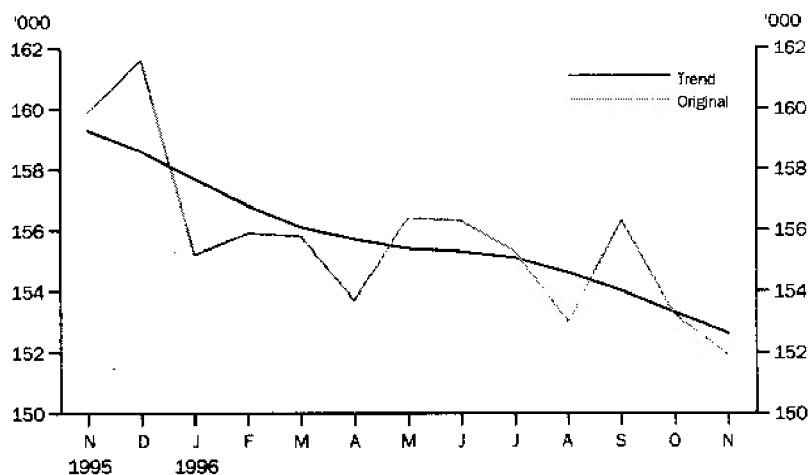
### NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS



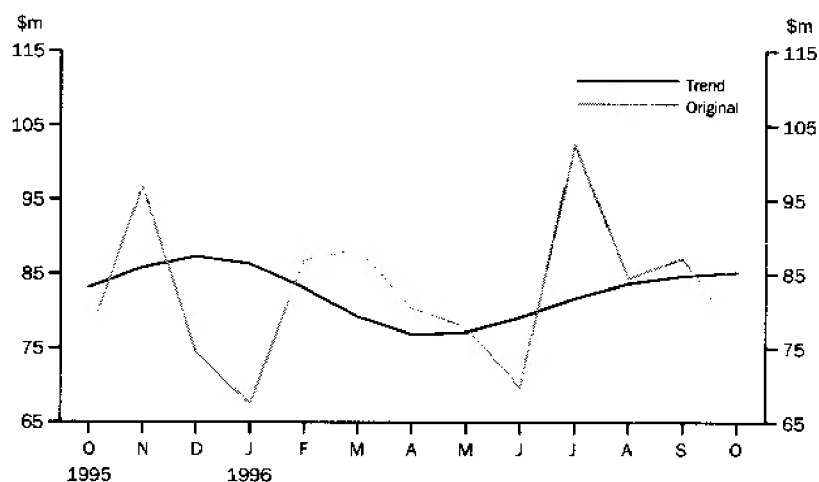
### LABOUR FORCE — TREND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



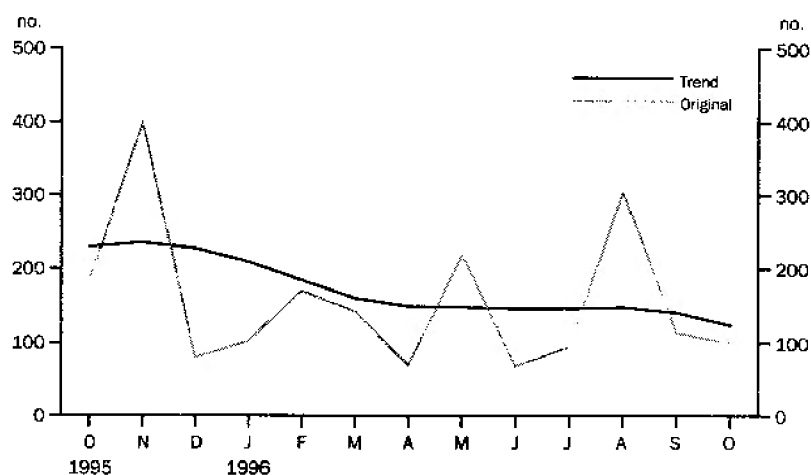
### LABOUR FORCE — EMPLOYMENT



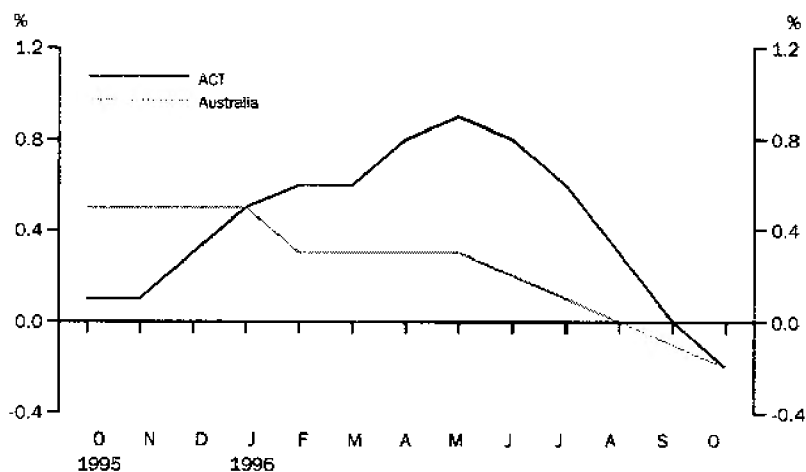
# HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS



# BUILDING APPROVALS — DWELLING UNITS APPROVED



# RETAIL TURNOVER — TREND PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS MONTH



Home ownership (that is, those who either own their home outright or are purchasing their home) was 64% of households in the ACT in 1994, which was the second lowest of all States and Territories. This compares with the national average of 70%, with Victoria (74%) recording the highest proportion and the Northern Territory (44%) with the lowest proportion of owner/purchaser households.

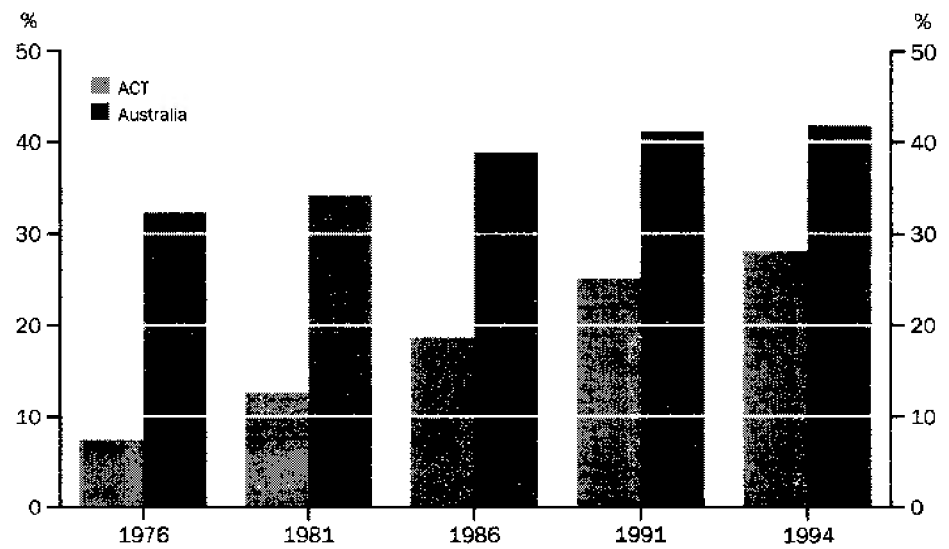
Nationally, the proportion of households which owned their home outright increased from 32% in 1976 to 42% in 1994. In the ACT this rose from 7% in 1976 to 28% in 1994. The proportion of Australian households which were still paying off their home decreased from 36% in 1976 to 28% in 1994. The ACT experienced a more substantial fall from 56% in 1976 to 36% in 1994. This was mainly the result of an increasing proportion of home purchasers who have paid off their mortgages.

The proportion of households which were renters in Australia increased slightly over the period, from 26% in 1976 to 28% in 1994. During the same period the ACT remained stable at 35%. The proportion of households renting privately in the ACT increased from 17% in 1976 to 22% in 1994. There was a corresponding fall in the number of households renting publicly-owned accommodation in the ACT, declining from 18% in 1976 to 13% in 1994. In 1994 the ACT (35%) had the second highest proportion, after the Northern Territory (53%), of households renting. Victoria (24%), recorded the lowest proportion of households renting in 1994.

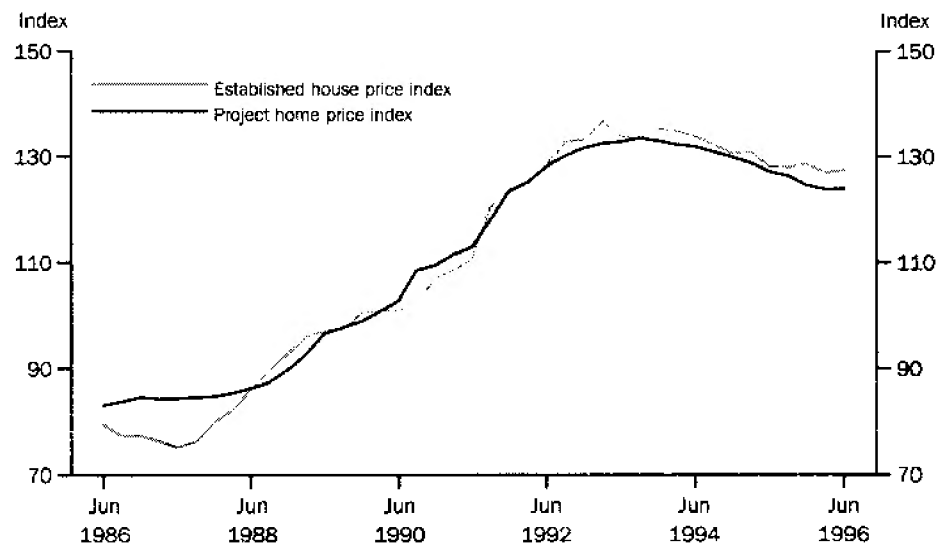
Established house prices in Canberra have fallen since 1993, as a result of reduced economic activity which in turn has affected population growth and hence demand for housing. From 1993 to 1996, median house prices for an established house in Canberra fell from \$158,300 to \$155,800 (down 1.6%). The only other Capital city to experience a decline was Adelaide with a fall from \$114,000 to \$108,800 (down 4.6%). Compared to Australia's seven Capital cities, Canberra's median house prices in 1996 was the third most expensive, with Sydney coming first (\$200,200) followed by Darwin (\$164,400). Hobart recorded the lowest median house price of \$108,000.

Housing costs as a percentage of average weekly household income remained relatively stable in Canberra over the 20 year period 1974-75 to 1993-94. In 1974-75, 10.4% of average weekly household income in Canberra was consumed on housing costs. By 1993-94 this had increased to 10.8%, placing Canberra the third lowest capital city in terms of housing costs as a percentage of average weekly household income, behind Adelaide (10.4%) and Hobart (10.6%). Darwin (13.4%) recorded the most expensive housing costs as a percentage of average weekly household income in 1993-94. Nationally the figure stood at 12.2%.

# HOME OWNERSHIP, ACT AND AUSTRALIA



# ESTABLISHED HOUSE AND PROJECT HOME PRICE INDEXES, CANBERRA



# 1

## AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS: SALES, DECEMBER QUARTER 1996/SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1997, EXPECTED AGGREGATE CHANGE

| <i>Period</i>               | <i>Australian<br/>Capital<br/>Territory</i> | <i>Australia</i> |
|-----------------------------|---|------------------|
|                             | <i>%</i>                                    | <i>%</i>         |
| <b>Short-term</b>           |   |                  |
| Sept qtr 1995-Dec qtr 1995  | 2.0   | 2.1              |
| Dec qtr 1995-Mar qtr 1996   | 0.5   | -0.2             |
| Mar qtr 1996-June qtr 1996  | 1.8   | 2.3              |
| June qtr 1996-Sept qtr 1996 | 0.4   | 1.6              |
| Sept qtr 1996-Dec qtr 1996  | -0.3  | 1.6              |
| <b>Medium-term</b>          |   |                  |
| Sept qtr 1995-Sept qtr 1996 | 3.1   | 3.4              |
| Dec qtr 1995-Dec qtr 1996   | 3.8   | 4.4              |
| Mar qtr 1996-Mar qtr 1997   | 2.3   | 4.1              |
| June qtr 1996-June qtr 1997 | 1.4   | 3.6              |
| Sept qtr 1996-Sept qtr 1997 | 1.5   | 3.1              |



| Indicator   | Unit            | Australian Capital Territory |                 |                           | Australia     |                 |                           |
|---|-----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
|   |                 | Latest figure                | Previous period | Change from               | Latest figure | Previous period | Change from               |
|   |                 |                              |                 | Same period previous year |               |                 | Same period previous year |
| <b>POPULATION, VITAL AND LABOUR</b>                             |                 |                              |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| POPULATION, Mar qtr 96  | '000            | 306.4                        | 0.5             | 0.9                       | 18 238.6      | 0.4             | 1.4                       |
| Natural increase  | no.             | 740                          | -23.2           | -12.3                     | 34 715        | 12.9            | -4.2                      |
| Net migration   | no.             | 822                          | -188.7          | -29.5                     | 35 322        | 24.3            | 43.0                      |
| Total increase  | no.             | 1 562                        | 4 121.6         | -22.3                     | 70 037        | 18.4            | 15.0                      |
| <b>LABOUR FORCE, Nov 96</b>                                     |                 |                              |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Original series   |                 |                              |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Employed  | '000            | 151.9                        | -0.8            | -5.0                      | 8 392.4       | —               | —                         |
| Unemployed  | '000            | 12.7                         | -1.6            | 6.7                       | 737.2         | -3.6            | 0.1                       |
| Unemployment rate(a)  | %               | 7.7                          | -0.1            | 0.8                       | 8.1           | -0.3            | —                         |
| Participation rate(a)   | %               | 70.4                         | -0.6            | -3.9                      | 63.2          | -0.3            | -0.6                      |
| Long-term unemployed (Oct 96)                                   | no.             | 3 200                        | 10.3            | 60.0                      | 227 300       | -4.3            | -4.1                      |
| Long-term unemployed as percentage total unemployed (Oct 96)(a) | %               | 24.8                         | 2.7             | 4.2                       | 29.7          | —               | -2.4                      |
| Trend series  |                 |                              |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Employed  | '000            | 152.6                        | -0.5            | -4.2                      | 8 383.9       | 0.1             | 1.0                       |
| Unemployed  | '000            | 14.3                         | —               | 18.2                      | 797.2         | 0.3             | 4.3                       |
| Unemployment rate(a)  | %               | 8.5                          | —               | 1.5                       | 8.7           | —               | 0.3                       |
| Participation rate(a)   | %               | 71.3                         | -0.4            | -2.8                      | 63.6          | —               | -0.2                      |
| JOB VACANCIES, Aug 96   | '000            | 0.5                          | 150.0           | 66.7                      | 55.3          | 26.0            | 5.3                       |
| <b>INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS, Aug 96</b>                  |                 |                              |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Working days lost   | '000            | 2.7                          | -65.4           | —                         | 119.2         | -13.4           | 174.7                     |
| Days lost per '000 employees (year ended Aug 96)                | no.             | 142.0                        | 15.4            | 2 740.0                   | 139.0         | 8.6             | 61.6                      |
| <b>BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION</b>                                |                 |                              |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| <b>HOUSING FINANCE, Oct 96</b>                                  |                 |                              |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Secured commitments to individuals for                          |                 |                              |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Original series   |                 |                              |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Construction of dwellings                                       | \$m             | 8.4                          | 15.1            | 13.5                      | 556.2         | 12.5            | 12.9                      |
| Purchase of new dwellings                                       | \$m             | 5.3                          | -20.9           | -45.9                     | 211.2         | 1.9             | 14.2                      |
| Purchase of established dwellings                               | \$m             | 44.9                         | 2.0             | 6.9                       | 2 457.1       | 9.0             | 10.0                      |
| Total housing commitments                                       | \$m             | 77.0                         | -11.6           | 0.7                       | 4 061.1       | 0.6             | 12.4                      |
| Seasonally adjusted series                                      |                 |                              |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Total housing commitments                                       | \$m             | 73.7                         | -18.4           | -8.3                      | 3 970.4       | -4.0            | 6.7                       |
| Trend series  |                 |                              |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Dwelling units financed   | no.             | 870                          | 0.9             | 2.1                       | 41 317        | 1.7             | 8.7                       |
| Total housing commitments                                       | \$m             | 85.2                         | 0.6             | 2.5                       | 4 080.3       | 1.7             | 11.9                      |
| <b>BUILDING APPROVALS, Oct 96</b>                               |                 |                              |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Original series   |                 |                              |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Dwelling units  | no.             | 100                          | -12.3           | -45.1                     | 11 817        | 18.0            | 15.4                      |
| Value of new residential  | \$m             | 11.0                         | -15.4           | -40.5                     | 1 141.5       | 15.9            | 16.0                      |
| Value of residential alterations and additions                  | \$m             | 4.2                          | -6.7            | -25.0                     | 225.8         | 10.7            | 14.7                      |
| Value of non-residential  | \$m             | 14.0                         | -71.4           | -2.8                      | 1 384.5       | 21.6            | 19.1                      |
| Value of total building   | \$m             | 29.2                         | -56.1           | -23.0                     | 2 751.9       | 18.2            | 17.4                      |
| Trend series  |                 |                              |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Dwelling units  | no.             | 124                          | -4.6            | -45.9                     | 10 622        | 0.8             | 2.9                       |
| <b>BUILDING COMMENCEMENTS, June qtr 96</b>                      |                 |                              |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| New houses  | no.             | 342                          | 57.6            | 5.9                       | 20 975        | 9.9             | -14.8                     |
| Value of houses commenced                                       | \$m             | 35.9                         | 46.5            | -4.3                      | 2 227.0       | 10.7            | -10.5                     |
| Value of non-residential building commenced                     | \$m             | 147.9                        | 126.5           | 145.7                     | 2 647.0       | -12.3           | 5.1                       |
| Value of total commencements                                    | \$m             | 213.1                        | 84.3            | 70.2                      | 6 413.7       | -2.3            | -4.0                      |
| <b>PRICE INDEXES</b>  |                 |                              |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Established house price index, Sept qtr 96                      | (1989-90=100.0) | 127.2                        | -0.2            | -0.6                      | 114.0         | 0.4             | 1.2                       |

For footnotes see end of table.

| AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, DECEMBER 1996  |                 |                              |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
|--|-----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Indicator  | Unit            | Australian Capital Territory |                 |                           | Australia     |                 |                           |
|  |                 | Latest figure                | Previous period | Change from               | Latest figure | Previous period | Change from               |
|  |                 |                              |                 | Same period previous year |               |                 | Same period previous year |
|  |                 |                              |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| <b>PRICES, WAGES AND CONSUMER SPENDING</b>                       |                 |                              |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| (CPI, Sept qtr 96 1989-90=100.0)                                 |                 |                              |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Food   | (1989-90=100.0) | 120.3                        | 0.6             | 2.6                       | 118.3         | 1.0             | 2.5                       |
| Housing  | (1989-90=100.0) | 112.0                        | -0.4            | 0.6                       | 106.1         | -0.2            | 0.7                       |
| Transportation   | (1989-90=100.0) | 128.9                        | -0.8            | 1.7                       | 123.4         | -0.3            | 1.1                       |
| All groups   | (1989-90=100.0) | 121.4                        | —               | 1.9                       | 120.1         | 0.3             | 2.1                       |
| <b>AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, Aug 96</b>                           |                 |                              |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Original series  |                 |                              |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Males  | \$              | 762.0                        | 2.6             | 4.0                       | 673.5         | 0.3             | 2.9                       |
| Females  | \$              | 545.6                        | 0.8             | 6.7                       | 445.1         | 0.9             | 3.6                       |
| Total persons  | \$              | 647.7                        | 1.0             | 3.9                       | 566.6         | 0.4             | 3.4                       |
| Trend series   |                 |                              |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Males  | \$              | 756.2                        | 0.5             | 2.7                       | 676.2         | 0.7             | 2.8                       |
| Females  | \$              | 550.5                        | 2.6             | 6.5                       | 446.4         | 1.2             | 3.6                       |
| Total persons  | \$              | 648.3                        | 1.0             | 3.5                       | 569.2         | 0.9             | 3.3                       |
| <b>RETAIL TURNOVER, Oct 96</b>                                   |                 |                              |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Original series  |                 |                              |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Food retailing   | \$m             | 80.7                         | 4.3             | 7.0                       | 4 305.2       | 7.7             | 7.7                       |
| Department stores  | \$m             | 23.4                         | 15.3            | 0.9                       | 963.2         | 15.5            | 4.6                       |
| Hospitality and services   | \$m             | 31.9                         | 4.9             | 5.6                       | 1 738.0       | 5.5             | -2.1                      |
| All other retailing  | \$m             | 60.2                         | 0.8             | 4.5                       | 3 429.2       | 8.9             | 5.8                       |
| Total  | \$m             | 196.2                        | 4.5             | 5.3                       | 10 435.6      | 8.4             | 5.1                       |
| Trend series   |                 |                              |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Food retailing   | '000            | 80.2                         | -0.4            | 7.8                       | 4 215.7       | 0.4             | 5.5                       |
| Department stores  | \$m             | 23.6                         | -0.8            | -2.1                      | 962.1         | -0.5            | —                         |
| Hospitality and services   | \$m             | 30.6                         | 0.3             | 8.1                       | 1 689.2       | -1.0            | -3.5                      |
| All other retailing  | %               | 60.2                         | —               | 4.2                       | 3 359.6       | -0.3            | 3.5                       |
| Total  | '000            | 194.6                        | -0.2            | 5.4                       | 10 226.6      | -0.2            | 2.7                       |
| <b>TOURISM AND TRANSPORT</b>                                     |                 |                              |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| <b>HOTELS, MOTELS AND GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION, June qtr 96</b> |                 |                              |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Original series  |                 |                              |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Room nights  | '000            | 215.9                        | 8.9             | 3.2                       | 8 788.8       | -3.9            | 3.0                       |
| Takings at current prices  | \$m             | 20.3                         | 12.8            | 5.7                       | 835.8         | -4.3            | 10.5                      |
| Takings at 1989-90 prices  | \$m             | 16.7                         | 12.1            | 1.8                       | 697.0         | -5.0            | 7.1                       |
| Room occupancy rate (June qtr 96)(a)                             | %               | 57.5                         | -6.0            | -5.2                      | 56.1          | -2.9            | —                         |
| Seasonally adjusted series                                       |                 |                              |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Room nights  | '000            | 223.7                        | 10.7            | 2.8                       | 9 178.8       | -0.2            | 3.0                       |
| Takings at current prices  | \$m             | 20.7                         | 15.0            | 5.1                       | 888.4         | 1.8             | 10.6                      |
| Takings at 1989-90 prices  | \$m             | 17.1                         | 14.8            | 2.4                       | 740.9         | 1.1             | 7.1                       |
| Trend series   |                 |                              |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Room nights  | '000            | 214.7                        | 2.8             | -0.5                      | 9 203.1       | 0.5             | 2.9                       |
| Takings at current prices  | \$m             | 19.6                         | 3.7             | 1.6                       | 888.4         | 2.3             | 10.3                      |
| Takings at 1989-90 prices  | \$m             | 16.1                         | 3.2             | -1.8                      | 739.9         | 1.6             | 6.7                       |
| <b>NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS, Oct 96</b>                   |                 |                              |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Motor vehicles   | no.             | 944                          | 22.9            | 1.0                       | 55 721        | 9.0             | 4.2                       |
| Seasonally adjusted motor vehicles                               | no.             | 883                          | 13.6            | -6.0                      | 51 182        | -5.8            | -1.8                      |
| Trend motor vehicles   | no.             | 860                          | -3.4            | -15.9                     | 52 657        | -1.3            | 3.3                       |

For footnotes see end of table.

| Indicator                                 | Unit | Australian Capital Territory |                 |                           | Australia     |                 |                           |
|---|------|------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
|   |      | Latest figure                | Previous period | Change from               | Latest figure | Previous period | Change from               |
|   |      |                              |                 | Same period previous year |               |                 | Same period previous year |
| AGGREGATE INDICATORS                      |      |                              |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| STATE ACCOUNTS, June qtr 96(b)            |      |                              |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Original series                           |      |                              |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Gross State product at av. 1989-90 prices | \$m  | 2 183                        | 7.1             | 2.4                       | 107 516       | 2.5             | 4.3                       |
| Gross State product at current prices     | \$m  | 2 630                        | 8.2             | 5.3                       | 122 332       | 3.2             | 6.5                       |
| State final demand at av. 1989-90 prices  | \$m  | 3 073                        | 6.9             | 0.1                       | 109 714       | 7.7             | 3.5                       |
| Private final consumption expenditure     | \$m  | 1 410                        | 5.4             | 4.1                       | 76 344        | 3.6             | 6.2                       |
| Private gross fixed capital expenditure   | \$m  | 192                          | 9.1             | 7.3                       | 20 256        | 16.2            | 3.5                       |
| Trend series                              |      |                              |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Gross State product at av. 1989-90 prices | \$m  | 2 164                        | 0.2             | 4.0                       | 109 367       | 0.7             | 4.2                       |
| Gross State product at current prices     | \$m  | 2 604                        | 1.4             | 6.9                       | 124 235       | 1.4             | 6.8                       |
| State final demand at av. 1989-90 prices  | \$m  | 3 004                        | -0.6            | 1.9                       | 108 280       | 0.9             | 3.8                       |
| Private final consumption expenditure     | \$m  | 1 419                        | 0.6             | 3.8                       | 77 521        | 1.3             | 6.5                       |
| Private gross fixed capital expenditure   | \$m  | 193                          | -2.5            | 2.1                       | 19 524        | 1.5             | 2.3                       |

(a) Change shown in terms of percentage points.

(b) State estimates are not comparable to national estimates for June quarter 1995 due to revised aggregates in *Australian National Accounts, State Accounts* (5242.0).

Source: ABS Catalogue Nos: 3101.0, 5242.0, 5609.0, 6202.0, 6203.0, 6302.0, 6321.0, 6354.0, 6401.0, 6408.0, 6416.0, 8501.0, 8634.0, 8635.8, 8731.0, 8752.0, 9214.0, 9301.0.

# 3

## AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY IN RELATION TO THE REST OF AUSTRALIA

| Indicator   | Unit            | Latest period | NSW     | Vic.    | Qld     | SA      | WA      | Tas.  | NT    | ACT   | Aust.    |
|---|-----------------|---------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|-------|-------|----------|
| <b>POPULATION</b>                                     |                 |               |         |         |         |         |         |       |       |       |          |
| <b>LABOUR FORCE</b>                                   |                 |               |         |         |         |         |         |       |       |       |          |
| Employed persons (trend)                              | '000            | Mar Qtr 96p   | 6 173.0 | 4 533.3 | 3 339.0 | 1 477.7 | 1 755.5 | 473.2 | 177.5 | 306.4 | 18 238.6 |
| Unemployment rate (trend)                             | %               | Nov 96        | 7.8     | 9.5     | 9.6     | 9.6     | 7.6     | 10.4  | 4.5   | 8.5   | 8.7      |
| <b>STATE ACCOUNTS(a)</b>                              |                 |               |         |         |         |         |         |       |       |       |          |
| Gross State product at 1989-90 prices (trend)         | \$m             | June Qtr 96   | 37 172  | 28 787  | 17 965  | 7 607   | 12 414  | 2 187 | 1 224 | 2 164 | 109 367  |
| Gross State product at current prices (trend)         | \$m             | June Qtr 96   | 43 143  | 32 352  | 19 993  | 8 932   | 13 340  | 2 588 | 1 331 | 2 604 | 124 235  |
| <b>BUILDING APPROVALS</b>                             |                 |               |         |         |         |         |         |       |       |       |          |
| Dwelling units approved                               | no.             | Oct 96        | 3 829   | 2 325   | 3 300   | 566     | 1 338   | 190   | 169   | 100   | 11 817   |
| Dwelling units approved (trend)                       | no.             | Oct 96        | 3 542   | 2 059   | 2 808   | 529     | 1 256   | 153   | 149   | 124   | 10 622   |
| Value of non-residential building approved            | \$m             | Oct 96        | 749.8   | 204.5   | 194.3   | 28.5    | 141.0   | 10.6  | 41.7  | 14.0  | 1 384.5  |
| Value of all buildings approved                       | \$m             | Oct 96        | 1 232.2 | 489.5   | 542.8   | 84.2    | 279.9   | 31.5  | 62.5  | 29.2  | 2 751.9  |
| <b>ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION</b>                       |                 |               |         |         |         |         |         |       |       |       |          |
| Value of engineering construction work done           | \$m             | June qtr 96   | 1 435.8 | 650.8   | 792.3   | 225.7   | 856.2   | 66.2  | 47.7  | 39.9  | 4 114.7  |
| <b>AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS</b>                        |                 |               |         |         |         |         |         |       |       |       |          |
| Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)                 | \$              | Aug 96        | 713.4   | 664.8   | 629.1   | 636.0   | 691.7   | 635.3 | 678.2 | 780.7 | 677.9    |
| <b>RETAIL TRADE</b>                                   |                 |               |         |         |         |         |         |       |       |       |          |
| Retail turnover (trend)                               | \$m             | Oct 96        | 3 690.4 | 2 339.2 | 1 873.3 | 759.8   | 1 014.7 | 242.7 | 111.9 | 194.6 | 10 226.6 |
| <b>HOTELS, MOTELS &amp; GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION</b> |                 |               |         |         |         |         |         |       |       |       |          |
| Room nights occupied (trend)                          | '000            | June qtr 96   | 3 148.7 | 1 509.1 | 2 421.4 | 527.9   | 828.9   | 260.3 | 292.1 | 214.7 | 9 203.1  |
| <b>MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS</b>                    |                 |               |         |         |         |         |         |       |       |       |          |
| Trend   | no.             | Oct 96        | 18 092  | 12 900  | 10 054  | 3 206   | 5 763   | 1 238 | 544   | 860   | 52 657   |
|   |                 |               |         |         |         |         |         |       |       |       |          |
| Indicator   | Unit            | Latest period | Syd.    | Melb.   | Bris.   | Adel.   | Perth   | Hob.  | Dar.  | Canb. | Aust.    |
| <b>CONSUMER PRICE INDEX</b>                           |                 |               |         |         |         |         |         |       |       |       |          |
| Food  | (1989-90=100.0) | Sept qtr 96   | 118.2   | 117.5   | 117.7   | 119.2   | 120.3   | 120.0 | 119.1 | 120.3 | 118.3    |
| Housing   | (1989-90=100.0) | Sept qtr 96   | 110.4   | 99.6    | 112.4   | 103.5   | 101.0   | 107.4 | 121.7 | 112.0 | 106.1    |
| Transportation  | (1989-90=100.0) | Sept qtr 96   | 124.0   | 123.1   | 122.2   | 124.4   | 122.0   | 119.7 | 121.9 | 128.9 | 123.4    |
| All Groups  | (1989-90=100.0) | Sept qtr 96   | 120.2   | 119.6   | 120.6   | 122.2   | 118.3   | 121.1 | 121.6 | 121.4 | 120.1    |
| Average retail prices (cents)                         |                 |               |         |         |         |         |         |       |       |       |          |
| Milk, carton, supermarket sales                       | 1 litre         | Sept qtr 96   | 114     | 125     | 114     | 114     | 124     | 120   | 116   | 109   | na       |
| Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales          | 680 g           | Sept qtr 96   | 195     | 192     | 193     | 154     | 184     | 167   | 194   | 182   | na       |
| Beef, rump steak                                      | 1 kg            | Sept qtr 96   | 1221    | 1107    | 1056    | 1123    | 1082    | 1074  | 1289  | 1048  | na       |
| Chicken, frozen                                       | 1 kg            | Sept qtr 96   | 307     | 352     | 342     | 369     | 346     | 397   | 383   | 322   | na       |
| Potatoes  | 1 kg            | Sept qtr 96   | 86      | 94      | 90      | 67      | 120     | 78    | 109   | 83    | na       |
| Coffee, instant (jar)                                 | 150 g           | Sept qtr 96   | 572     | 568     | 572     | 509     | 574     | 617   | 565   | 566   | na       |
| Scotch nip, public bar                                | 30 ml           | Sept qtr 96   | 317     | 283     | 251     | 329     | 324     | 241   | 310   | 282   | na       |
| Private motoring petrol, leaded                       | 1 litre         | Sept qtr 96   | 72.8    | 73.6    | 66.4    | 73.6    | 74.6    | 76.2  | 79.4  | 76.2  | na       |
| Private motoring petrol, unleaded                     | 1 litre         | Sept qtr 96   | 70.7    | 71.5    | 62.2    | 71.3    | 72.5    | 74.1  | 77.4  | 74.0  | na       |

(a) State estimates are not comparable to national estimates for June quarter 1995 due to revised aggregates in Australian National Accounts, State Accounts (5242.0).

## AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY IN RELATION TO THE REST OF AUSTRALIA — PERCENTAGE CHANGES

| Indicator   | Latest period | NSW  | Vic.  | Qld   | SA    | WA    | Tas.  | NT   | ACT   | Aust. |
|---|---------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|
| <b>POPULATION</b>                                     | Mar Qtr 96p   | 0.3  | 0.3   | 0.7   | 0.1   | -0.5  | —     | 0.3  | 0.5   | 0.4   |
| <b>LABOUR FORCE</b>                                   |               |      |       |       |       |       |       |      |       |       |
| Employed persons (trend)                              | Nov 96        | 0.1  | 0.1   | —     | -0.1  | —     | -0.2  | -0.1 | -0.5  | 0.1   |
| Unemployment rate (trend)(a)                          | Nov 96        | -0.1 | 0.2   | —     | —     | -0.1  | -0.1  | -0.3 | —     | —     |
| <b>STATE ACCOUNTS(b)</b>                              |               |      |       |       |       |       |       |      |       |       |
| Gross State product at 1989-90 prices (trend)         | June Qtr 96   | 1.0  | 0.4   | 1.7   | 0.7   | 2.0   | 0.1   | -0.6 | 0.2   | 0.7   |
| Gross State product at current prices (trend)         | June Qtr 96   | 1.9  | 0.9   | 1.7   | 0.8   | 2.0   | 0.8   | 0.9  | 1.4   | 1.4   |
| <b>BUILDING APPROVALS</b>                             |               |      |       |       |       |       |       |      |       |       |
| Dwelling units approved                               | October 96    | 9.2  | 30.8  | 27.4  | 10.1  | 10.6  | 18.8  | 18.2 | -12.3 | 18.0  |
| Dwelling units approved (trend)                       | October 96    | -1.0 | 1.0   | 1.0   | 3.9   | 2.6   | -4.4  | -2.6 | -4.6  | 0.8   |
| Value of non-residential building approved            | October 96    | 60.1 | 16.9  | -26.1 | -51.8 | 53.4  | 2.9   | 88.7 | -71.4 | 21.6  |
| Value of all buildings approved                       | October 96    | 33.0 | 21.1  | 1.2   | -25.6 | 27.7  | 24.0  | 68.5 | -56.1 | 18.2  |
| <b>ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION</b>                       |               |      |       |       |       |       |       |      |       |       |
| Value of engineering construction work done           | June qtr 96   | 17.5 | 8.3   | 17.4  | 13.9  | 46.2  | -15.3 | 13.0 | 33.9  | 19.9  |
| <b>AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS</b>                        |               |      |       |       |       |       |       |      |       |       |
| Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)                 | August 96     | 1.4  | 0.3   | 1.1   | 0.7   | 0.7   | 0.9   | 1.1  | 0.7   | 1.0   |
| <b>RETAIL TRADE</b>                                   |               |      |       |       |       |       |       |      |       |       |
| Retail turnover (trend)                               | October 96    | -0.2 | 0.3   | -0.3  | -0.8  | -0.2  | -0.2  | -1.1 | -0.2  | -0.2  |
| <b>HOTELS, MOTELS &amp; GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION</b> |               |      |       |       |       |       |       |      |       |       |
| Room nights occupied (trend)                          | June qtr 96   | —    | 0.8   | 0.6   | 1.4   | 1.2   | -2.6  | -0.5 | 2.8   | 0.5   |
| <b>NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS</b>                |               |      |       |       |       |       |       |      |       |       |
| Trend   | October 96    | -1.7 | -0.2  | -2.2  | -2.6  | 0.3   | -0.6  | -3.7 | -3.4  | -1.3  |
|   | Latest period | Syd. | Melb. | Bris. | Adel. | Perth | Hob.  | Dar. | Canb. | Aust. |
| <b>CONSUMER PRICE INDEX</b>                           |               |      |       |       |       |       |       |      |       |       |
| Food  | Sept qtr 96   | 0.4  | 1.8   | -0.1  | 0.7   | 2.1   | 1.4   | 0.4  | 0.6   | 1.0   |
| Housing   | Sept qtr 96   | 0.4  | -0.8  | -0.1  | -0.4  | -0.6  | -0.2  | —    | -0.4  | -0.2  |
| Transportation  | Sept qtr 96   | -0.2 | -0.3  | 0.1   | -0.7  | -1.5  | -0.1  | 2.2  | -0.8  | -0.3  |
| All Groups  | Sept qtr 96   | 0.3  | 0.3   | 0.2   | 0.2   | 0.3   | 0.4   | 0.7  | —     | 0.3   |
| Average retail prices (cents)                         |               |      |       |       |       |       |       |      |       |       |
| Milk, carton, supermarket sales                       | Sept qtr 96   | 0.9  | 3.3   | —     | 0.9   | 3.3   | —     | 0.9  | 2.8   | n.a.  |
| Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales          | Sept qtr 96   | 0.5  | 10.3  | 1.6   | 9.2   | 2.2   | 9.9   | 2.1  | -1.6  | n.a.  |
| Beef, rump steak                                      | Sept qtr 96   | -4.8 | -0.8  | -3.0  | -3.9  | -0.6  | -8.8  | 1.4  | -4.5  | n.a.  |
| Chicken, frozen                                       | Sept qtr 96   | -7.0 | 1.1   | 10.0  | 6.0   | 4.5   | 6.7   | 0.3  | 6.6   | n.a.  |
| Potatoes  | Sept qtr 96   | 3.6  | -5.1  | 4.7   | -4.3  | 6.2   | 1.3   | -3.5 | 6.4   | n.a.  |
| → Coffee, instant (jar)                               | Sept qtr 96   | 0.5  | -0.2  | -3.7  | -3.6  | 0.5   | -2.5  | -5.5 | -0.9  | n.a.  |
| Scotch nip, public bar                                | Sept qtr 96   | 0.3  | 3.3   | —     | 2.5   | —     | 3.0   | 1.0  | 1.4   | n.a.  |
| Private motoring petrol, leaded                       | Sept qtr 96   | -2.9 | -0.7  | 0.2   | -3.0  | -2.4  | -1.6  | —    | -3.2  | n.a.  |
| Private motoring petrol, unleaded                     | Sept qtr 96   | -3.2 | -0.6  | -3.0  | -3.1  | -2.4  | -1.7  | —    | -3.3  | n.a.  |





## For more information . . .

The ABS publishes a wide range of statistics and other information on Australia's economic and social conditions. Details of what is available in various publications and other products can be found in the ABS Catalogue of Publications and Products available from all ABS Offices.

### ABS Products and Services

Many standard products are available from ABS bookshops located in each State and Territory. In addition to these products, information tailored to the needs of clients can be obtained on a wide range of media by contacting your nearest ABS Office. The ABS also provides a Subscription Service for standard products and some tailored information services.

### National Dial-a-Statistic Line

0055 86 400

*Steadycom P/L: premium rate 25c/20 secs.*

This number gives 24-hour access, 365 days a year, for a range of important economic statistics including the CPI.

### Internet

<http://www.abs.gov.au>

A wide range of ABS information is available via the Internet, with basic statistics available for each State, Territory and Australia. We also have Key National Indicators, ABS product release details and other information of general interest.

## Sales and Inquiries

Keylink      STAT.INFO/ABS  
X.400      (C:Australia,PUB:Telememo,O:ABS,FN:STAT,SN:INFO)  
Internet      stat.info@abs.telememo.au

National Mail Order Service      (06) 252 5249  
Subscription Service      1800 02 0608

|           | Information Inquiries | Bookshop Sales |
|-----------|-----------------------|----------------|
| SYDNEY    | (02) 9268 4611        | (02) 9268 4620 |
| MELBOURNE | (03) 9615 7755        | (03) 9615 7755 |
| BRISBANE  | (07) 3222 6351        | (07) 3222 6350 |
| PERTH     | (09) 360 5140         | (09) 360 5307  |
| ADELAIDE  | (08) 8237 7100        | (08) 8237 7582 |
| CANBERRA  | (06) 252 6627         | (06) 207 0326  |
| HOBART    | (03) 6220 5800        | (03) 6220 5800 |
| DARWIN    | (08) 8943 2111        | (08) 8943 2111 |



Client Services, ABS, PO Box 10, Belconnen ACT 2616

Produced by the Australian Government Publishing Service  
© Commonwealth of Australia 1996

Recommended retail price: \$13.00



2130380012961  
ISSN 1320-808X